REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action dated March 5, 2009 (hereinafter, "Office Action"). As discussed below, Claims 1-15 remain pending in the present application and new Claims 31-35 are added by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections:

While Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended one or more claims to address the Examiner's comments. Applicants are not acquiescing to the rejections and reserve the right to pursue in a related application claims at least as broad as the amended claims prior to the amendments set forth herein. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103:

Applicants submit that the Office Action again fails to present a prima facie obviousness rejection because the Office Action fails to satisfy the required burden in establishing an obviousness rejection based, in part, on the requirements set forth in the Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of the Supreme Court Decision in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*

For example, as will be described in greater detail below, the proposed combinations involve several modifications and changes to the prior art. However, the Office Action fails to articulate specific rationales for the proposed combinations and modifications of the references, while also ignoring the whole teachings of the prior art references.

Rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,769,885 ("Quiachon") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,647,857 ("Anderson"). For the reasons set forth herein, Applicants submit that Quiachon's intraluminal grafting system, modified as taught by Anderson, would not disclose, suggest, or render obvious the bifurcation graft deployment systems of amended Claim 1 or 10.

In particular, with regard to Claim 1, Applicants submit that Quiachon in view of Anderson does not disclose, suggest, or render obvious a bifurcated prosthesis deployment system comprising, intcr alia, an elongate, flexible catheter body, having a proximal end and a distal end and comprising an outer sheath and an inner core that is axially moveable with respect to the outer sheath and an atraumatic distal tip coupled to the inner core and positioned adjacent the distal end of the catheter body; a self-expanding bifurcated graft comprising a main vessel portion, a first branch vessel portion, and a second branch vessel portion; a main vessel graft restraint comprising a first peelable cover for restraining substantially the entire length of the main vessel portion of the bifurcated graft; a first branch vessel graft restraint, for restraining the first branch vessel portion of the graft; and a second branch vessel graft restraint, for restraining the second branch vessel portion of the graft; wherein the first peelable cover is coupled to a main branch release element, and wherein each of the bifurcated graft, main vessel graft restraint, first branch vessel graft restraint, and the second branch vessel graft restraint are positioned within the catheter body in a graft loaded condition in an orientation such that the main vessel portion is positioned nearer to the distal end of the catheter body than either the first branch vessel portion or the second branch vessel portion.

With regard to Claim 10, Applicants submit that Quiachon in view of Anderson does not disclose, suggest, or render obvious a bifurcated prosthesis deployment system comprising, inter alia, a delivery catheter having an inner core, an outer sheath and a distal tip that is coupled to the inner core, the inner core being slidably engaged within the outer sheath; and a self-expanding bifurcated prosthesis having a main body section with proximal and distal ends and being self-expandable along a substantial portion of the length thereof, and first and second branch sections at the proximal end of the main body section, each being self-expandable along a substantial portion of the length thereof; wherein the main body section is held in a radially compressed state by a first peelable cover that covers substantially the entire length of the main body section, the first branch section is held in a radially compressed state within a first tubular cover, and the second branch section is held in a radially compressed state within a second tubular cover; the main body section is deployable by proximally retracting the first peelable cover; and the compressed bifurcated prosthesis is positioned within the outer sheath such that the distal end of the bifurcated prosthesis is positioned nearer to the distal tip of the delivery catheter.

In contrast with Claims 1 and 10, as discussed during the interview, because the graft in Quiachon only has self-expandable attachment members at the end portions of the graft (e.g., first self-expanding inferior attachment systems 175 and second self-expanding inferior attachment systems 176), the distal capsule 93 of Quiachon only covers a portion of the main tubular member 170. *See* Quiachon, Fig. 30. In amended Claim 1, the main vessel graft restraint comprises a first peelable cover for restraining *substantially the entire length* of the main vessel portion of the bifurcated graft. Similarly, in amended Claim 10, the first peelable cover covers *substantially the entire length of the main body section.*

Regarding dependent Claims 2-9 and 11-15, Applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated or suggested by, or unpatentable over, the cited references for at least the reasons stated above with respect to Claims 1 and 10 and also because they each recite further patentable distinctions.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to also withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-15 and to pass these claims to allowance.

New Claims Have Been Added:

New Claims 31-34 have been added. Applicants submit that these claims are fully supported by the application as filed such that no new matter has been introduced by this Amendment, and that these claims are directed to elected inventions. Regarding the art references cited in the Office Action, Applicants submit that Claims 31-34 are not anticipated or suggested by, or unpatentable over, the cited references for at least the reasons stated above with respect to Claims 1 and 10 and also because they each recite further patentable distinctions.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure,

including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicant wishes to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending applications of the present application's assignee.

Serial Number	Title	Filed
11/417,651 ENDOLOG.007C4	ENDOLUMINAL VASCULAR PROSTHESIS	05-03-2006
11/623,679 ENDOLOG.007C5	ENDOLUMINAL VASCULAR PROSTHESIS	01-16-2007
10/119,525 ENDOLOG.014C1	SELF EXPANDED BIFURCATED ENDOVASCULAR PROSTHESIS	04-08-2002
11/417.883 ENDOLOG.014C2	SELF EXPANDED BIFURCATED ENDOVASCULAR PROSTHESIS	05-03-2006
10/706,660 ENDOLOG.028C2	DUAL WIRE PLACEMENT CATHETER	11-12-2003
10/820,455 ENDOLOG.054A	ENDOLUMENAL VASCULAR PROSTHESIS WITH NEOINTIMA INHIBITING POLYMERIC SLEEVE	04-08-2004
11/104,303 ENDOLOG.056A	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DECOMPRESSING ANEURYSMS	04-12-2005
11/580,201 ENDOLOG.056CP1	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DECOMPRESSING ANEURYSMS	10-12-2006
11/522,292 ENDOLOG.067A	MULTI-SEGMENTED GRAFT DEPLOYMENT SYSTEM	09-15-2006
11/623,022 ENDOLOG.075A	DUAL CONCENTRIC GUIDEWARE AND METHODS OF BIFURCATED GRAFT DEPLOYMENT	01-12-2007
12/257,149 ENDOLOG.085A	STENT	10-23-2008
11/189,101 ENDOLOG.21CP6C2	BIFURCATION GRAFT DEPOLYMENT CATHETER	07-25-2005
11/417,926 ENDOLOG.21CP7C2	IMPLANTABLE VASCULAR GRAFT	05-03-2006
11/764,715 ENDOLOG.21CP7CC	IMPLANTABLE VASCULAR GRAFT	06-18-2007
10/690,227 ENDOLOG.23DV1C1	SINGLE PUNCTURE BIFURCATION GRAFT DEPLOYMENT SYSTEM	10-21-2003
11/214,427 ENDOLOG.4C3C1	BIFURCATED VASCULAR GRAFT AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DEPOLYING SAME	08-29-2005
12/269,677 ENDOLOG.091A	METHOD AND AGENT FOR IN-SITU STABILIZATION OF VASCULAR TISSUE	11-12-2008
12/101.863 ENDOLOG.093A	BIFURCATED GRAFT DEPLOYMENT SYSTEMS AND METHODS	04-11-2008
12/390,346 ENDOLOG.096A	DESIGN AND METHOD OF PLACEMENT OF A GRAFT OR GRAFT SYSTEM	02-20-2009

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Sept. 4, 2009

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AMEND

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